

T H E

Horrors of Jealousie,

O R,

The Fatal Mistake.

ing a Terrible and Dreadful Relation of one *Jonathan Williams*, a Gentleman of a considerable Fortune near *Sittingburn* in *Kent*, who had a Beautiful and Virtuous young Lady to his Wife, who disgusting a light Huswife, her Chamber-Maid, she vowed a Bloody Revenge upon her Mistress; then forged a Letter to make her Master Jealous: When one Day, as the Plot was laid, sending up the Butler into her Bed-Chamber when she was in Bed, and sent her Master after him; who immediately killed him with his Sword, and afterward did the like by his Wife, protesting her Innocency with her dying Breath; upon which horrible Tragedy the Chamber-Maid confessed her Treachery, shewing her Ladys Innocency; upon this he killed her, and after fell upon his own Sword and died.

Together With

the Copy of the L E T T E R, and all the Circumstances attending so Tragical an End; and how upon the sight of this Bloody Tragedy their only Son and Heir run Distracted, and Died Raving Mad.

Licensed according to Order.

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THE

Horrors of Jealousie,

OR; THE

Fatal Mistake, &c.

R Eader, I here present you with a very amazing and dreadful Relation; the deplorable Truth of which is sufficiently attested by credible Authority, and may serve as a terrible Warning to all over-credulous Jealous Persons how they hastily listen to, and entertain false Reports made by wicked and designing Insinuations also to avoid the tormenting Horrors that attend Cruel Jealousie.

It so happen'd that one *Jonathan Williams*, living near *Sittingburn* in *Kent*, coming to a large and plentiful Estate upon the decease of his Father to whom he was sole Heir, he Married a virtuous young Lady, Daughter to a worthy and wealthy Kt. in the same County, by which Match he greatly augmented his own Fortune, making her a considerable Joynture, and so extreamly kind and loving they were to each other, that they became a worthy Conjugal President and Example of true Love to the whole Country round them, to the great rejoycing of their Relations; and thus

ived in the height of all earthly Felicity for five Years, and were blessed with a fair Offspring, to their great Joy and Contentment, till at last the grand Enemy of Mankind envying them so great share of Happiness, raised up a wicked Instrument to destroy it all at once together with their lives; and thus it was brought about, to the ruin of this flourishing Family.

Madam *Williams* having hired one *Elizabeth Smith*, who had some time lived in a noble Family, she entertain'd her in the nature of a Chambermaid, and for a time she behaved her self very respectfully and obliging in her Service, till at last a loose kind of a Fellow, a Lawyer's Clerk, meeting her one Day abroad, invited her to a Treat, pretending he was very much smitten in Love with her, which she (who no doubt longed for a Husband, as young Lasses usually do) believing to be real, and gave him several Meetings abroad; so that her Work at home was neglected, insomuch that her Lady taking notice of it, chid her for her idle gadding, which she mildly told she would not allow any of her Servants to do without leave, that some visible Business requir'd it.

This the Maid stomached not a little, yet keeping it to her self as well as she cou'd, she writ privately to her Spark, telling him she could not meet him abroad as usual, and keep her Service; and therefore if he lov'd her as he pretended, she wou'd contrive it that he might sometimes come and pay her a visit at her Lady's House, which he did long under the denomination of a near Kinsman, that when her Master and Lady were in Bed, or gone abroad, *William Sims* the Butler, who upon such an account, had been liberal to them in what the

the Cellar or Pantrey afforded ; one time returning home sooner than they expected, and perceiving (unseen of them) a closer familiarity between them than was decent for near Relations to use, he, as the saying is, began to *smell a Rat*, and would this way oblige them no farther ; and soon after, tho' not by the honest Butler's means, her Lady came to know of these visits, and in a friendly manner took her into examination about it, advising her to be careful how she ingaged in such Matters and in her House especially ; where it might bring a Scandal, but she answered so impertinently, that provoking her Lady, who was rarely known to be in a Passion, she gave her a Box on the Ear ; this she took so heinously, that from that moment she resolved upon a cruel Revenge, and from that time the Devil pushing forward her own wicked Inclination, she studied many ways how to bring it to pass ; she forbid her spark coming to the House, and appeared more diligent and observant in all her Business, the better to colour her Design ; so that there seemed a Reformation wrought in her, which so highly pleased her Lady, that she not only expressed herself sorry for striking her in her Passion, but gave her a very good Gown of her own wearing, as a recompence, but as no good Nature can calm Malicious Spirits, so here it only prevailed to outward appearances.

And now having laid her Plot, her Master usually going a Hunting early in the Morning, and leaving his Lady in Bed, and sometimes he returned to Breakfast before she Was up, but always went up to visit her, with many endearing Expressions before he went out again, which this wicked Chambermaid having observed, resolved to break that Re-

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reciprocal Love by sowing the Seeds of Jealousie, pursuant to which Design, getting some of her Lady's hand writing out of her Closet, she practis'd so long, that she could exactly counterfeit it, then she writ the following Letter, as from her Lady to the Butler, viz.

Dear Mr. Sims,

Being you have neglected these Two Mornings to pay me the usual visit in my Chamber, during my Husband's absence, it makes me almost conclude you are either a faint-hearted Lover, and fear it, or else having had your Will of me, under many Protestations of secrecy, you now put a stop upon those Favours that none besides my Husband and myself ever can pretend to; this Bearer you know is conscious of our stolen Pleasures, and therefore we may freely tell her with the Secret; however, to spare her Tongue and my Blushes, I have sent these Lines, to bid you come where I am ready with open Arms to embrace and repeat these Love Pleasures we have so often tasted, as I conceive, our mutual Satisfaction.

This Letter, without a Name, she sealed with one of her Lady's Rings that had the Court of Arms on her Family; and usually was laid on her Toylet when she went to Bed; and now this wicked Watcher waited an opportunity to discover it to her Master, when one Morning returning from the field, and as his manner was, going up hastily to his beloved Wife, she watched on the Stairs coming from her Lady's Chamber, and upon her Master's approach seem'd to hasten down, and coming forward, as if in a great Fright, appearing to tremble from Head to Foot, she tore the Letter, and clapt the pieces into her Bosom.

Her Master perceiving this, was very curious to know

know the cause of so unusual a thing, fearing his Lady had been Ill, when taking her aside, and charging her to tell him the true cause of that surprize, and requiring to see what Paper it was she so hastily tore and thrust into her Bosom, she fell on her Knees, and with forced Tears rather besought him to banish her from his House for ever, or let her die, than to be guilty of so much Mischief as such a Discovery might cause; this made him but the more impatient to know what had far better been buried in Oblivion, and proved the last day of his repose, when after some entreaties and excuses imploring his Pardon for what had been done on her part, she with Sobs and Sighs told him his Lady, whom he supposed to be so chaste, had often wronged his Bed, and prostituted both her Honour and Chastity, not with a Person of any Rank, nor so much as a Gentleman, but with one of her own Servants, to whom she was a going with the Letter (as she supposed) to invite him to her *Chamber* in his Absence, whom they expected not so soon by an Hour or two, who was very fearful of coming thither by reason he had like to have been surprized by his coming home so suddenly the other Day.

This Discourse she uttered with down cast Eyes, and such a languishing Tone, that the Gentleman stood for a while as one Thunder-struck, not able to speak a word, looking wildly and furiously upon her, but recovering himself out of the Amazement, he demanded the Letter, which peicing together, he read with many deep Sighs, verily believing it to be his Lady's Hand, especially when he saw her *Signet*, to which he could not well conclude how any body else should come by it; then with uplift-

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ed Hands and Eyes, he fell into strange Admirations how any Woman could so deceive him with a feigned Chastity; sometimes he credited it, and then again considering her strict Virtue, he could not but fancy it was some Trick put upon her, but the wicked Creature affirming it to be true, and that if he would pardon her who had acted but by her Lady's strict Command, and keep all secret till the next Morning, she would make him an Eye witness of his Disgrace; after some pause he promised a Reward if it prov'd true, or Punishment if it proved false. After this Agreement, which made the Chambermaid laugh in her Sleeve (tho' all too soon) to think how her plotted Mischief had already wrought; so the Gentleman composing himself in this great disorder of Mind as well as he cou'd, went to visit his Lady, who wonder'd to see such an alteration in him, but he put it off upon pretence of some Losses he had, and that he was not well, and having passed over that restless Day and Night, to the great affliction of his loving Lady, who never saw him so discomposed before, he pretended Business early in the Morning, nor could all her endearing entreaties stay him, but instead of going out he concealed himself in a private place; upon which the Chamber-Maid run to the Innocent Butler, who was scarce drest, and in great hast told him he must presently go up to her Lady, who had something to order him presently;

sently that she would not communicate to her, the Honest Man never having been there before, scrupled it for a time, and made Excuses, but she urging it as a positive Command, and he considering his neglect might forfeit his Place, went up softly, and finding the Door ajar, enter'd, at which the Lady being much startied and surprized, call'd him sawey Fellow, and bid him be gone instantly or he should be severely punished for his presumption, not suffering him to make any excuse; the Maid the mean while sent her Master up after him, who finding him returning from the Bed-side with his Night-Cap on, and his Stockins loose, believing all true, his Jealousie so inspired him with Revenge, that furiously crying out, *Thou Ravisher of my Honour thou shalt Die*, and thereupon run him through with his Sword, so that with a Groan he fell down and lay weltring in his Blood on the Floor; then holding the Bloody Sword in his Hand, he went with Eyes sparkling with Anger and Rage to his Ladys Bed-side, threatening her by all the ill Names of a disloyal and base Woman with all the Maid had told him, and with what he had seen, which falsity so pierced her chaste and innocent Heart, that she fell into a Swoon, which he in his Rashness supposing to proceed from the effect of Guilt, without remorse, spurred on by the fury of Jealousie, sheathed his Sword in her Breast; yet after reviving again for a little time she protested her Innocency, and pray'd for him with her dying Breath.

The wicked Wretch who had caused this Innocent Blood shed, and perceived her Revenge had been beyond her Expectation Cruel, forced by her Guilt, came into the Chamber, and falling on her Knees, weeping pitiously, confessed all as it had been contrived by her, and for what cause, clearing the Innocents and accusing her self of the Guilt, which enraged the Gentleman, that after many Curses and Reproaches cast on her, he kill'd her without Pity, whilst she piteously cryed out for Mercy, and finding his Lady breathing out her last, he cryed out thy Murthrer shall die for Attonement and thereupon fell on the same Sword, when getting up again and staggering to the Bed-side, he threw himself upon her, and dyed in her Arms: Upon this his Son and Heir, a Youth, coming up, and seeing the Chamber streaming with Blood from so woful a Tragedy, fell Distracted, and soon after dyed Raving Mad, and thus by a wicked Contrivance, and the cursed Effects of a causeless Jealousy, a whole Family was destroyed.

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